Reef Relief

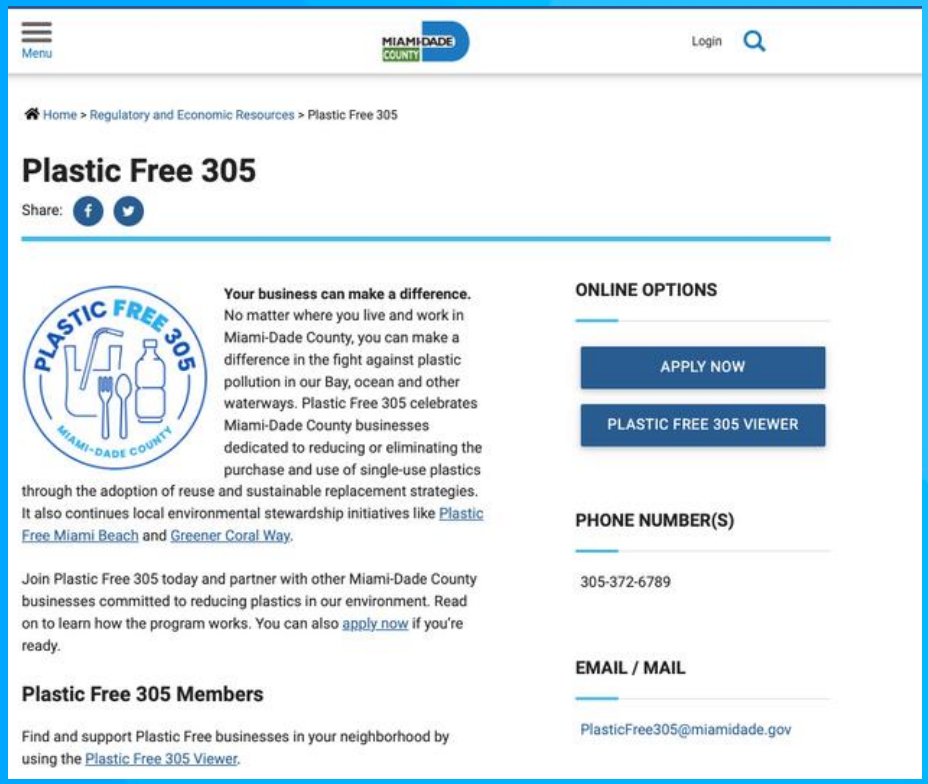
Making Key West Plastic Free

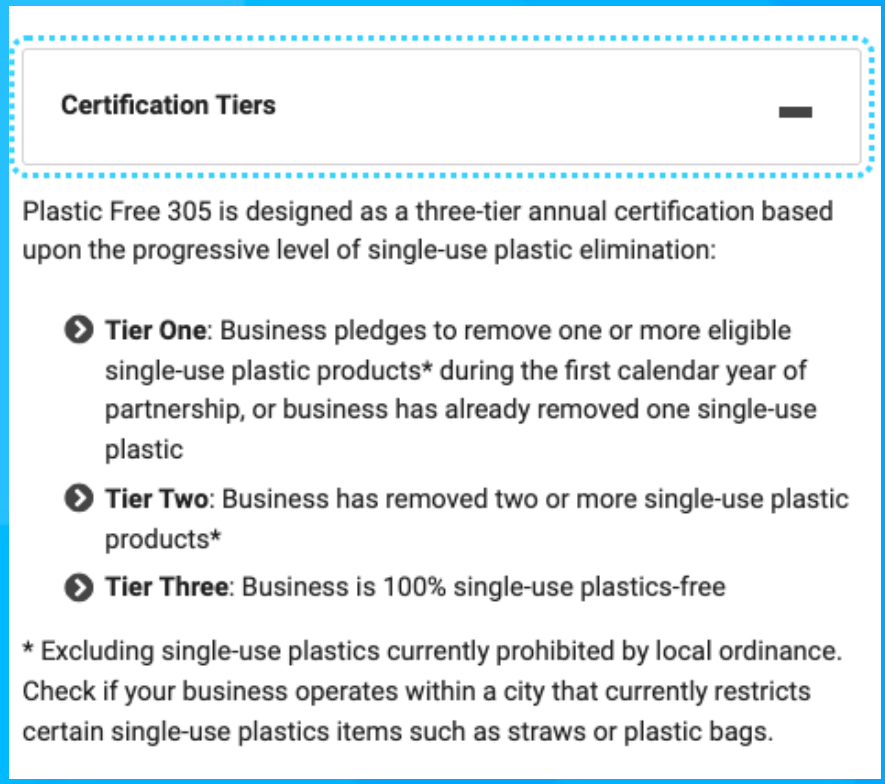
Reef Relief

Reef Relief® is a nonprofit membership organization dedicated to improving and protecting our coral reef ecosystem.

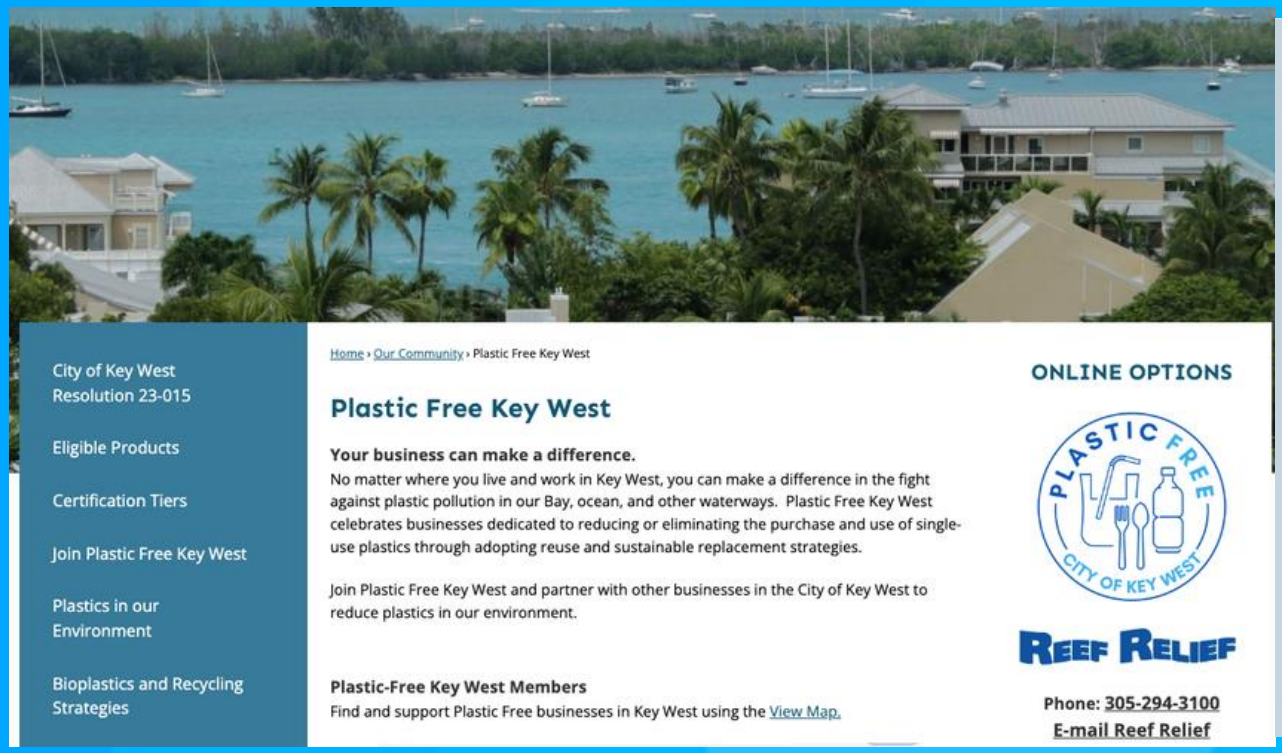
Since 2010, Reef Relief has collected over 320,000 lbs of marine debris.

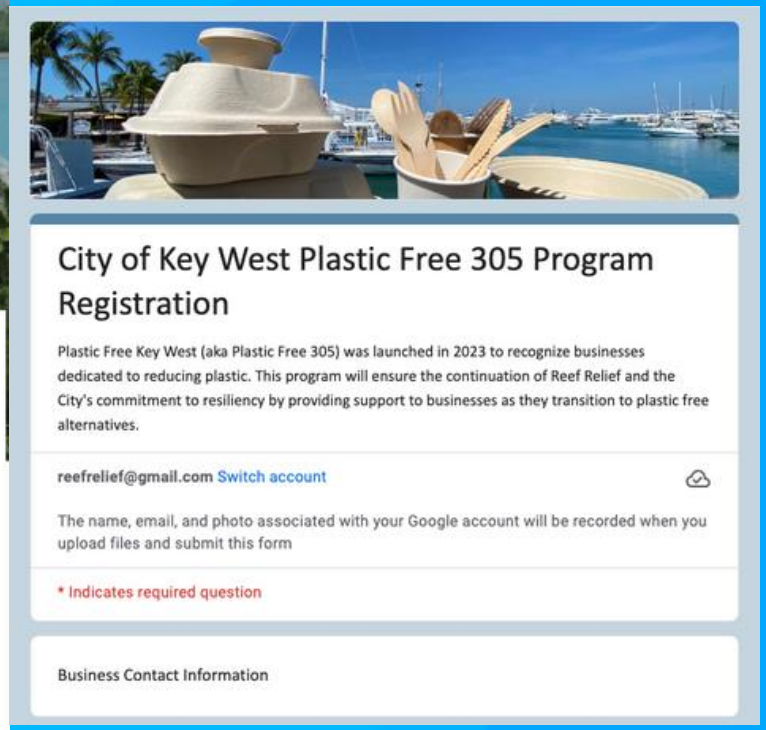
Plastic Free Key West Is adapted from Plastic Free 305 In Miami Dade





HOW TO APPLY





Participation is completely voluntary

Apply Now:

Bioplastic limitation similar toward the City of Key West's Ordinance 19-22 Straw Ordinance

ORDINANCE NO. 19-22

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 26 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, ENTITLED "ENVIRONMENT" BY CREATING ARTICLE VII ENTITLED "PLASTICS" TO PROHIBIT ~~THE POSSESSION OR DISTRIBUTION~~ DISTRIBUTION OR SALE OF PLASTIC STRAWS OR STIRRERS IN THE CITY OF KEY WEST; CREATING SECTION 26-312 ENTITLED "DEFINITIONS"; CREATING SECTION 26-313 ENTITLED "PROHIBITIONS"; CREATING SECTION 26-314 ENTITLED "PENALTIES"; CREATING SECTION 26-315 ENTITLED "EXCEPTIONS"; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF INCONSISTENT PROVISIONS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Bioplastics and Recycling Strategies

Bioplastics, or "biodegradable" or "compostable" plastics, are products made from natural renewable plant-based substances instead of fossil fuels (which is why most bioplastics bear an "eco-friendly" leaf on the product).

However, most bioplastics don't fully break down in home composts, landfills or in the environment, and many bioplastics contain significant amounts conventional plastic. Further, most bioplastics require commercial composting facilities employing controlled conditions to process and break down the bioplastics correctly, and at this time **there are no** commercial bioplastic processors in Miami-Dade County.

Bioplastics can also contaminate municipal recycling waste streams when people unknowingly add them to their recycling, and when illegally discarded in the environment they act just like conventional plastics and can break down into harmful microplastics.

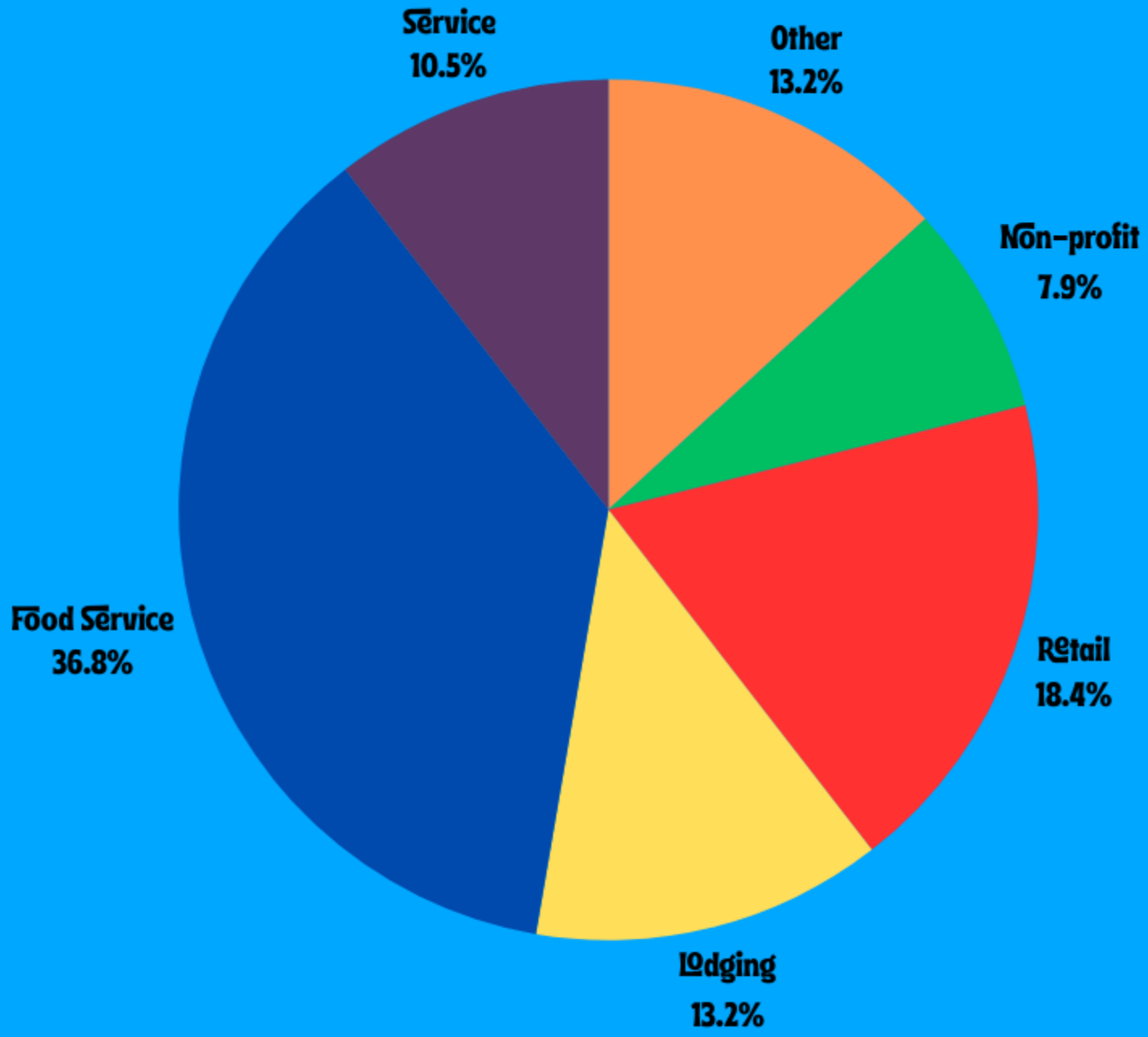
Miami-Dade County recommends that for now we treat bioplastics no differently than plastic. For more information on bioplastics in our environment, visit our Business Resource Partner.

Regarding plastic recycling, currently less than 10% of all plastic produced is recycled. Many plastic products degrade each time they're recycled and reprocessed — unlike metal or glass, which can be perpetually recycled — making plastics progressively less valuable. In Miami-Dade County, **the only plastics that are recycled are bottled-shaped plastics**, which means that all other plastics, including plastic bags, utensils and straws are headed straight for the landfill, or worse, our environment, despite being put inside the recycling bins.

BOTTOM LINE:

- Eliminating plastic at the source
- Business participation is their choice
- Reef Relief works with the City of Key West to recruit, process, and audit businesses in this program.
- Reef Relief recognizes those businesses participating via signage and social media.
- No code enforcement will be needed from the City of Key West.

Break Down by Business Type



Participating Businesses

Tier 1

HAPPY LANDINGS MARINA

SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH KEY WEST 1832

Tier 2

The Key West Tropical Forest & Botanical Garden

AMRI day spa • salon • boutique

Sea, Key West a local watersports company

Sugar Apple

Fausto's FOOD PALACE

TAVERN TOWN

HYATT CENTRIC

KIMPTON KEY WEST

DOING WORK COFFEE KEY WEST

Irish Kevin's

CLASSIC HARBOR LINE

old town manor

BOAT HOUSE BAR & GRILL AT TURTLE KRAALS KEY WEST

PURPLE HERON CHARTERS

BUG CERAMICS gayle antonides pottery studio & gallery

SLOPPY JOE'S A KEY WEST TRADITION

THE WHOCHY WICCLE

Half Shell Raw Bar

endrops

KOFFIE HOUSE

SOUTHERNMOST PINT BREWPUB KEY WEST, FL

522 FRONT STREET, KEY WEST, FL

Tier 3

date&thyme

ARGO NAVIS

KEYFILLERY

KEY WEST YOGA SANCTUARY

bella laine

HONEST ECO Sustainable Nature Tours

THE GREEN PINEAPPLE WELLNESS CAFE

Carlos Kombucha

Key West Bed and Breakfast

rose lane villas

KEY WEST FIRST Legal RUM DISTILLERY CHEF DISTILLED

Reef Relief

APPLY NOW: